

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3375

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

USUN NEW YORK 0465

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 3071

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN PFOR

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S JULY 14 SPEECH ON UN

REF: STATE 170841

1. DURING MY CALL JULY 21 ON KUWAITI FONMIN SABAH AL-AHMAD I RAISED SUBJECT OF SECRETARY'S MILWAUKEE SPEECH RE UN, DRAWING ON POINTS OUTLINED REFTL. I STRESSED DEEP CONCERN OF USG OVER INCREASING TREND TOWARD DC-LDC CONFRONTATION, AND OUR VIEW DELEGATIONS SHOULD COME TO US DETERMINED TO SEEK AREAS OF COMMON CONCERN RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION AND TO AVOID RIGID PRE-POSITIONS ON ISSUES OF COMMON INTEREST. I SAID SPEECH CLEARLY WAS REFLECTION OF US DESIRE SEE UN IMPROVE IN EFFECTIVENESS AS INTERNATIONAL FORUM, NOT RPT NOT THREAT TO ABANDON IT.

2. KUWAITI FONMIN SAID, AS HE SAW IT, LDC TACTIC WAS TO FIRST CONSULT AND UNITE ON TOP PRIORITY ISSUES AND THEN INSIST ALL
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MEMBERS MAINTAIN RIGID POSITIONS IN UN DEBATES IN ORDER TO AVOID BREAKS IN RANKS. FONMIN SAID HE AGREED THIS WAS DELIBERATE

CONFRONTATION AND ACCOMPLISHED NOTHING, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW VETO POWERS OF LARGE SC STATES. FONMIN SAID, IN FACT, HE FELT SO STRONGLY ON THIS POINT THAT HE INTENDED RAISE IT IN NEXT ARAB LEAGUE AND NON-ALIGNED MEETINGS. LDCS SHOULD GO BACK TO FUNDAMENTALS AND DECIDE WHAT IT IS THEY WANT TO ACCOMPLISH AND WHETHER OR NOT THEY NEED A STRONG UN. IF THEY WANTED THE UN TO HELP THEM, THEY WOULD HAVE TO COOPERATE WITH, NOT CONFRONT, THE OTHERS IN IT.

3. IF THEY CONTINUED ON THEIR PRESENT COURSE, FONMIN ADDED, LDCS WERE GOING TO FIND THE UN MORE OF A BURDEN THAN A HELP. KICKING STATES OUT OF THE UN OR ITS AGENCIES MEANT THAT THOSE WHO REMAINED WOULD HAVE TO PAY MORE, ECOSEC BEING A CASE IN POINT AFTER EXPELLING ISRAEL. RECENT ISLAMIC CONFERENCE CALL FOR ISRAEL'S OUSTER (NOT VOTED ON, IT JUST HAPPENED) WAS USELESS EXERCISE; EVEN RUSSIA WOULD PROBABLY JOIN US IN VETOING SUCH A MOVE.

4. COMMENT: FORGOING COMMENTS MIGHT NORMALLY BE CONSIDERED TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE COMING OUT OF KUWAIT. HOWEVER, RECENT REMARKS BY KUWAITI AMB TO UN ABDULLA BISHARA PROVIDE RATIONALE FOR SUCH SWEET RESONABLENESS AT THIS TIME. ON PLAN TOGETHER RETURNING TO KUWAIT, ABDULLA TOLD ME LAST WEEK KUWAIT PUTTING IN BID FOR SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT. ABDULLA ADDED HE INTENDED TO TALK TO FONMIN ABOUT KUWAIT'S INTERNATIONAL IMAGE, MAKING POINT THAT "BIG STATEMENTS FROM SMALL COUNTRY LIKE KUWAIT IMPRESS NO ONE", AND THAT RESPONSIBLE ACTION WAS NEEDED NOT BRAGGADOCIO. IT SEEMS ABDULLA HAS ALREADY TALKED TO HIS BOSS.
STOLTZFUS

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